**NOAA - National Weather Service**
*Tampa Bay Area*
*2525 14th Avenue SE, Ruskin, Florida 33570*
*813-645-2323* *http://weather.gov/tampa*

# Autumn Began at 10:29 PM Monday September 22, So When Is It Going To Cool Off?

Astronomically speaking autumn began at 10:29 PM EDT Monday September 22, but across West Central and Southwest Florida the temperatures are anything but fall-like. We`re continuing to have high humidity with dew points in the mid 60s to lower 70s, along with high temperatures in the mid 80s to around 90.

During most years we do not see the first shot of cooler drier air until the middle of October, albeit usually is rather short lived lasting only a day or two, with the real cool down not occurring until November. A good way to examine the timing of the first cool down is by looking at overnight low temperatures. The overnight low temperatures are highly dependent on a few factors, not the least being the amount of cloud cover, how strong the winds are and the amount of moisture in the air near the ground measured by looking at the dew point. In general overnight low temperatures cannot fall below the dew point, therefore if the dew points are still in the mid 60s to lower 70s as they are now, then the overnight low temperatures will most likely also be in the mid 60s to lower 70s unless a cool front moves through during the night. So to see when the first cool front moves across the region let's look at the dates when low temperatures fall below different thresholds at some locations.

Examining the tables below we do see that the average time of the first cool front appears to be during mid-October. This is when temperatures generally fall into the mid 50s across inland portions of the Nature Coast and below 60 degrees elsewhere across West Central and Southwest Florida. The only exception is near the coast where the water keeps temperatures higher and these areas take longer to fall below 60 degrees, as seen at St. Petersburg.

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DATE OF FIRST LOW TEMPERATURE <= 60 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

| LOCATION | EARLIEST | LATEST | AVERAGE | RECORDS BEGAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CHIEFLAND 5 SE | AUG 27 1969 | OCT 25 1959 | SEP 27 | 1956 |
| INVERNESS 3 SE | SEP 09 1997 | OCT 25 1959 | OCT 06 | 1948 |
| BUSHNELL 2 E | SEP 09 1997 | NOV 03 1969 | OCT 06 | 1948 |
| WEEKI WACHEE | SEP 07 1982 | OCT 23 1998 | OCT 02 | 1969 |
| ST LEO | SEP 14 2001 | NOV 08 1919 | OCT 11 | 1895 |
| TARPON SPRINGS | SEP 19 1981* | NOV 15 1919 | OCT 12 | 1892 |
| TAMPA | SEP 19 1981 | NOV 15 1919 | OCT 17 | 1890 |
| ST PETERSBURG | OCT 01 1920 | DEC 04 1986 | OCT 27 | 1914 |
| PLANT CITY | SEP 15 1918 | NOV 05 1900 | OCT 10 | 1893 |
| LAKELAND | SEP 19 1981 | NOV 14 1946 | OCT 15 | 1946 |
| BARTOW | SEP 16 1913 | NOV 14 1946 | OCT 14 | 1892 |
| WINTER HAVEN | SEP 19 1981 | NOV 14 1946 | OCT 18 | 1941 |
| MOUNTAIN LAKE | SEP 19 1981 | NOV 04 2007* | OCT 11 | 1935 |
| PARRISH | SEP 19 1981 | NOV 03 2007 | OCT 14 | 1958 |
| SARASOTA-BRADENTON | SEP 20 1981 | NOV 04 2007 | OCT 15 | 1948 |
| MYAKKA RIVER ST PK | SEP 19 1981 | NOV 04 1969 | OCT 10 | 1956 |
| WAUCHULA 2 N | SEP 19 1981 | NOV 07 1941 | OCT 13 | 1933 |
| AVON PARK 2 W | SEP 20 1981 | NOV 14 1946 | OCT 17 | 1902 |
| ARCADIA | SEP 16 1962 | NOV 19 1911 | OCT 11 | 1901 |
| ARCHBOLD BIO STN | SEP 08 1997 | NOV 04 2007 | OCT 05 | 1969 |
| VENICE | SEP 27 1956 | NOV 05 1998* | OCT 18 | 1956 |
| PUNTA GORDA 4 ESE | OCT 02 2001* | NOV 05 1985 | OCT 18 | 1965 |
| FORT MYERS | OCT 01 1920* | DEC 03 1986 | OCT 26 | 1902 |

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DATE OF FIRST LOW TEMPERATURE <= 55 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

| LOCATION | EARLIEST | LATEST | AVERAGE | RECORDS BEGAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CHIEFLAND 5 SE | SEP 10 1963 | OCT 27 1994 | OCT 07 | 1956 |
| INVERNESS 3 SE | SEP 16 1956 | NOV 04 1985 | OCT 15 | 1948 |
| BUSHNELL 2 E | SEP 27 1956 | NOV 05 1950 | OCT 15 | 1948 |
| WEEKI WACHEE | SEP 19 1981 | NOV 02 2007 | OCT 13 | 1969 |
| ST LEO | SEP 19 1981 | NOV 15 1919 | OCT 20 | 1895 |
| TARPON SPRINGS | SEP 20 1981 | NOV 25 1922 | OCT 22 | 1892 |
| TAMPA | SEP 22 1897 | NOV 25 1948* | OCT 27 | 1890 |
| ST PETERSBURG | OCT 01 1920 | DEC 15 1998* | NOV 07 | 1915 |
| PLANT CITY | SEP 20 1981 | NOV 22 1986 | OCT 20 | 1893 |
| LAKELAND | OCT 03 1984 | NOV 25 1948 | OCT 22 | 1946 |
| BARTOW | SEP 24 1916 | NOV 25 1922 | OCT 23 | 1892 |
| WINTER HAVEN | OCT 04 1974 | DEC 03 1986 | OCT 27 | 1941 |
| MOUNTAIN LAKE | SEP 21 1938 | NOV 15 2003* | OCT 21 | 1935 |
| PARRISH | OCT 02 1984 | NOV 14 2013* | OCT 22 | 1958 |
| SARASOTA-BRADENTON | OCT 01 1920 | NOV 24 1994 | OCT 26 | 1911 |
| MYAKKA RIVER ST PK | OCT 02 1984 | NOV 21 1994 | OCT 23 | 1956 |
| WAUCHULA 2 N | SEP 27 1956 | NOV 22 1986 | OCT 23 | 1933 |
| AVON PARK 2 W | OCT 01 1920 | NOV 25 1948* | OCT 26 | 1902 |
| ARCADIA | OCT 01 1920 | DEC 04 1986 | OCT 24 | 1901 |
| ARCHBOLD BIO STN | SEP 29 2006 | DEC 03 1986 | OCT 19 | 1969 |
| VENICE | OCT 03 1974 | DEC 03 1986 | OCT 30 | 1956 |
| PUNTA GORDA 4 ESE | OCT 10 2000 | DEC 04 1986 | OCT 30 | 1965 |
| FORT MYERS | OCT 01 1920 | DEC 11 1994 | NOV 04 | 1902 |

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DATE OF FIRST LOW TEMPERATURE <= 50 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

| LOCATION | EARLIEST | LATEST | AVERAGE | YEAR RECORDS BEGAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CHIEFLAND 5 SE | SEP 20 1981 | NOV 06 1998 | OCT 14 | 1956 |
| INVERNESS 3 SE | SEP 27 1991 | NOV 21 1986 | OCT 23 | 1948 |
| BUSHNELL 2 E | OCT 02 2011* | NOV 14 2003 | OCT 24 | 1948 |
| WEEKI WACHEE | SEP 20 1981 | NOV 14 2003 | OCT 19 | 1969 |
| ST LEO | SEP 22 1897 | NOV 30 1958 | OCT 30 | 1895 |
| TARPON SPRINGS | OCT 01 1920 | DEC 05 1919 | NOV 02 | 1892 |
| TAMPA | OCT 11 1906 | DEC 15 1998* | NOV 07 | 1890 |
| ST PETERSBURG | OCT 17 1943 | JAN 02 1987 | NOV 20 | 1915 |
| PLANT CITY | OCT 04 1929 | NOV 25 1948 | OCT 28 | 1893 |
| LAKELAND | OCT 10 2000 | DEC 11 1958 | NOV 02 | 1946 |
| BARTOW | OCT 01 1920 | DEC 16 1998 | NOV 02 | 1892 |
| WINTER HAVEN | OCT 10 2000 | DEC 16 1998 | NOV 06 | 1941 |
| MOUNTAIN LAKE | OCT 08 1987 | DEC 05 1946 | OCT 30 | 1935 |
| PARRISH | OCT 10 1976 | DEC 16 1998 | NOV 02 | 1958 |
| SARASOTA-BRADENTON | OCT 02 1920 | DEC 19 2001 | NOV 05 | 1911 |
| MYAKKA RIVER ST PK | OCT 08 1987 | DEC 15 1998 | NOV 01 | 1956 |
| WAUCHULA 2 N | OCT 10 2000 | DEC 04 1986 | NOV 01 | 1933 |
| AVON PARK 2 W | OCT 04 1929 | DEC 12 1994 | NOV 04 | 1902 |
| ARCADIA | OCT 01 1920 | DEC 12 1994 | NOV 01 | 1901 |
| ARCHBOLD BIO STN | OCT 08 2010 | DEC 12 1994 | OCT 29 | 1969 |
| VENICE | OCT 14 1977 | DEC 16 1998 | NOV 10 | 1956 |
| PUNTA GORDA 4 ESE | OCT 14 1977 | JAN 02 1987 | NOV 10 | 1965 |
| FORT MYERS | OCT 18 1977 | JAN 16 1972 | NOV 18 | 1902 |

* LAST OF MULTIPLE OCCURRENCES

Another way to look at when it may cool down is to take a look at the graphs of the average (based on 1981-2010 Normals) and record low temperatures during the autumn at a few sites across the region. We can see from the graphs below that during some years the first cool down has occurred as early as mid-September when temperatures have fallen into the upper 40s across northern portions of the Nature Coast to the lower 60s south. However, looking at the average lows we see that for the most part it takes until November before low temperatures fall into the mid 50s north to lower 60s south on a consistent basis. Also on these graphs we can see that on a few rare occasions there has been a freeze across portions of the Nature Coast during the second half of October, with areas further south during November.

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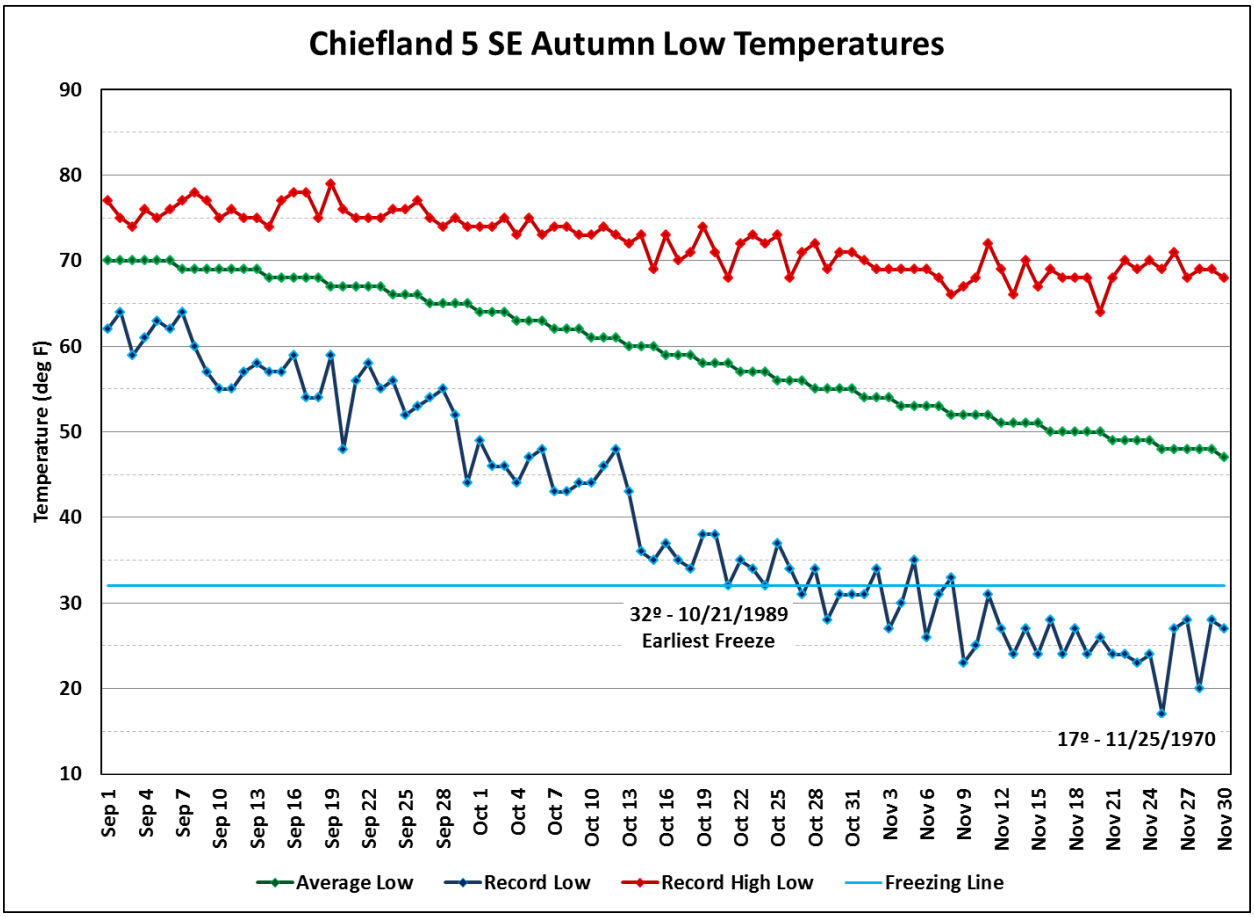


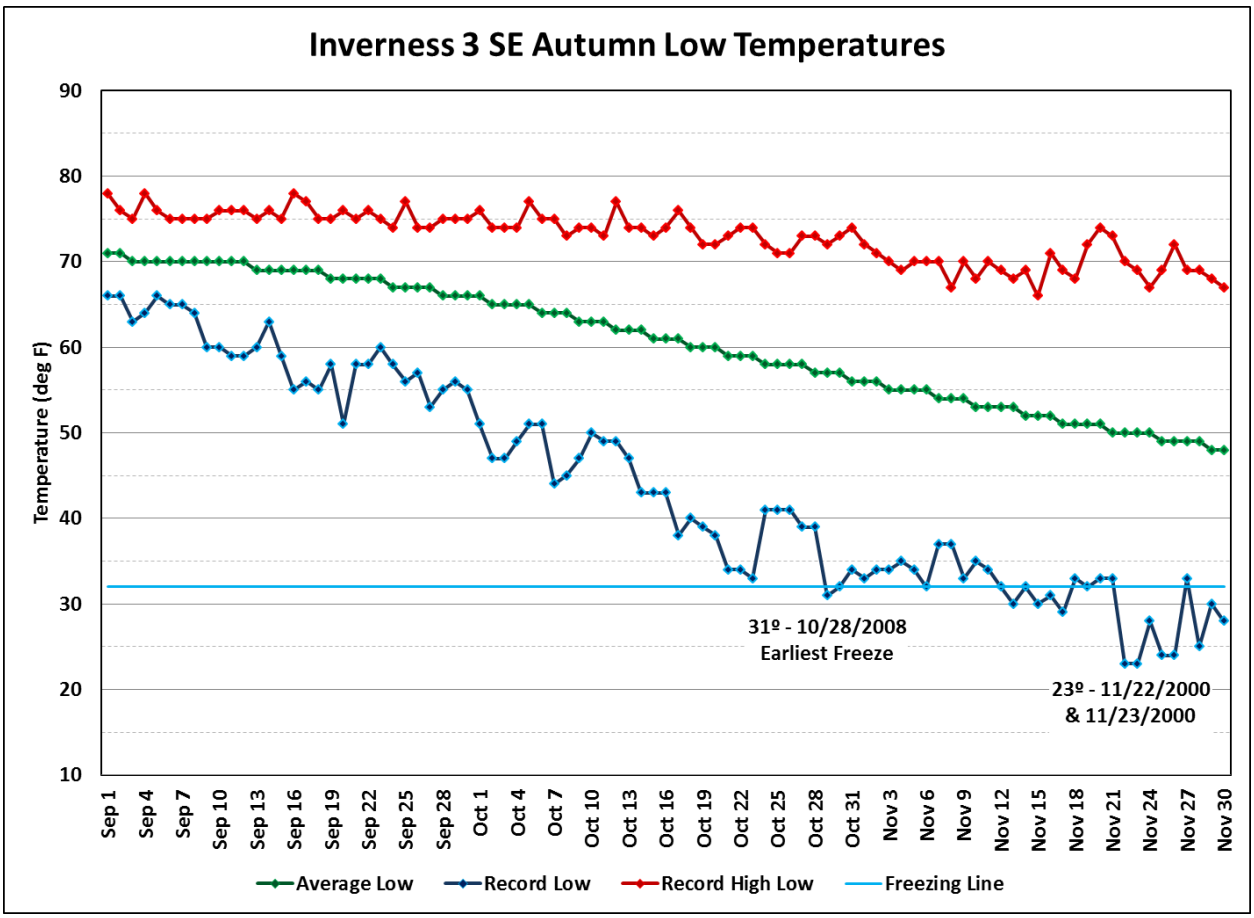


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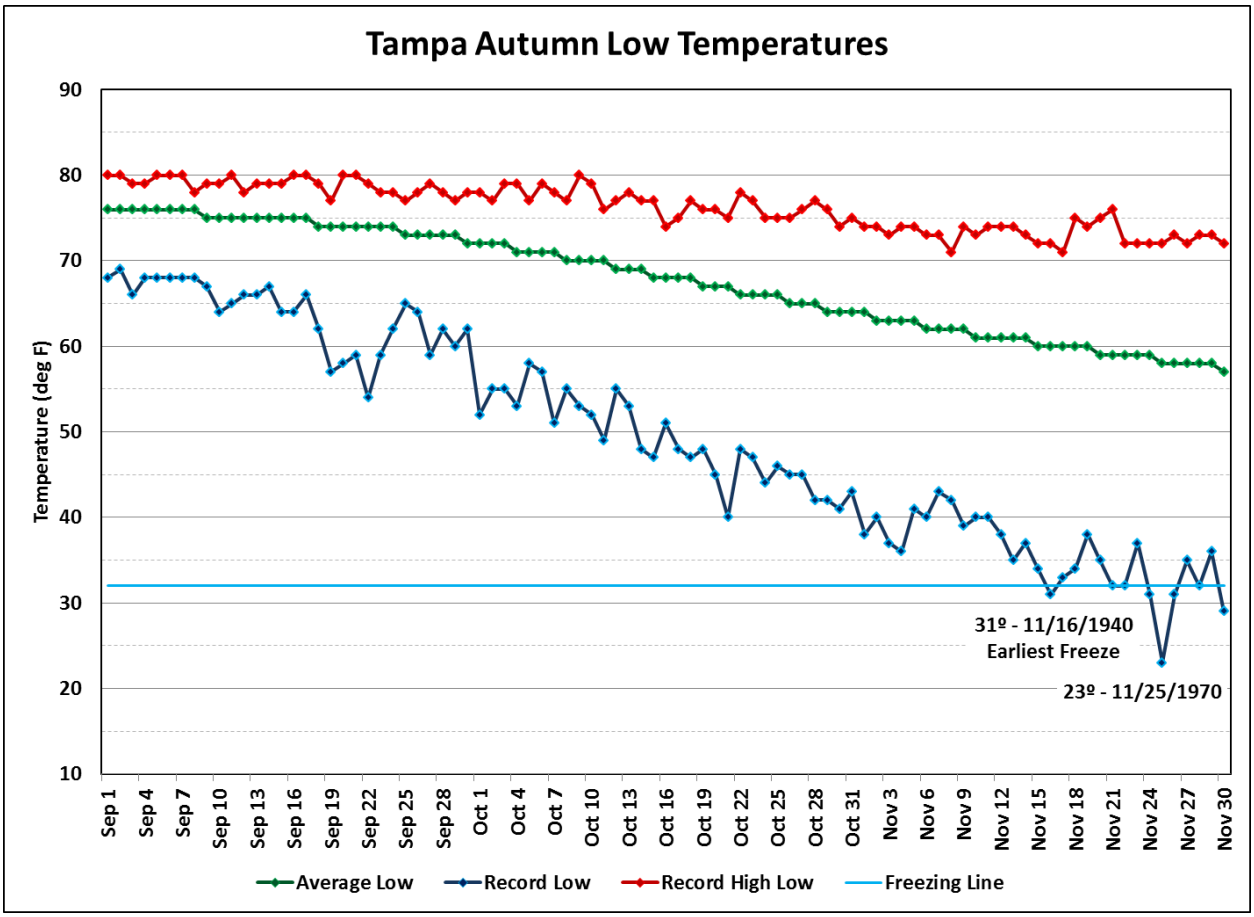


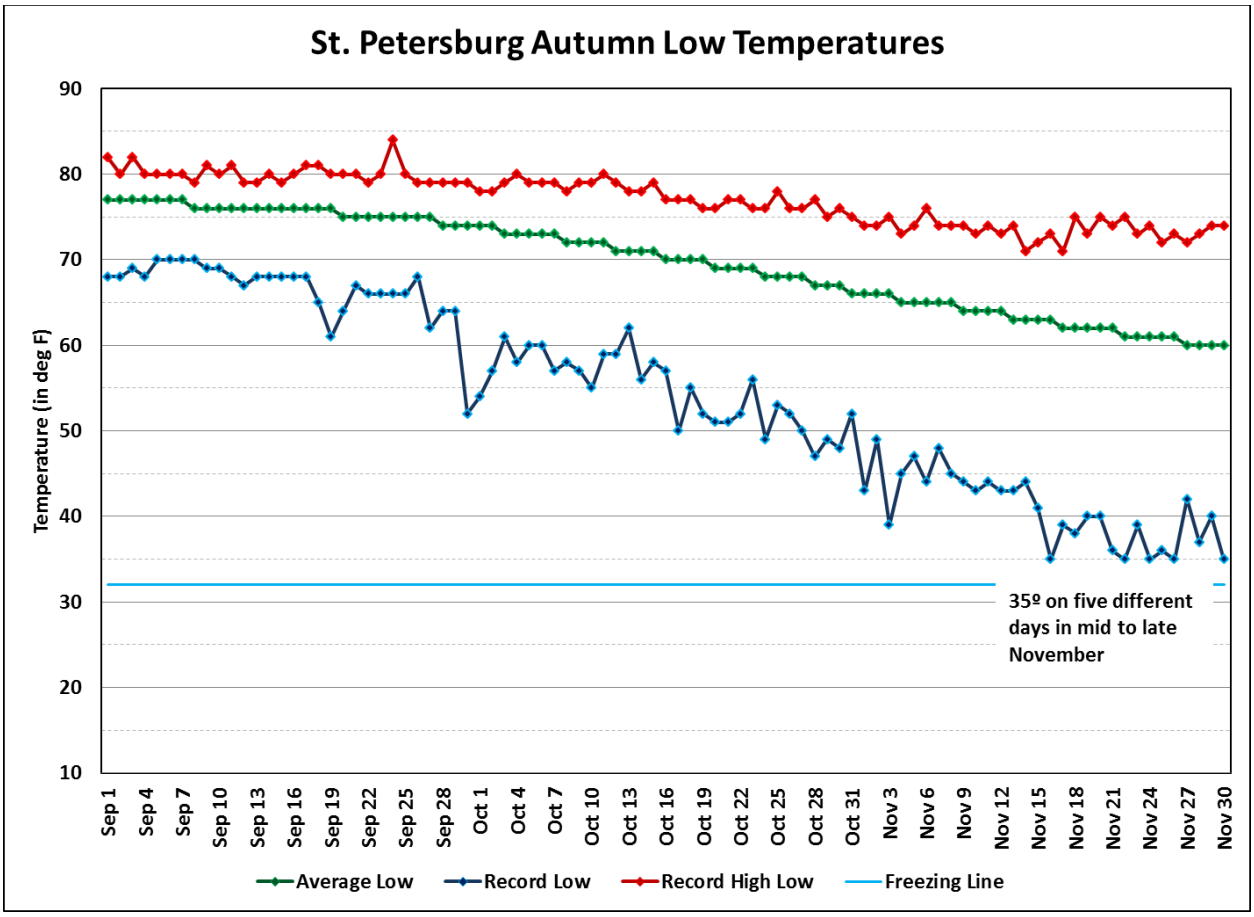


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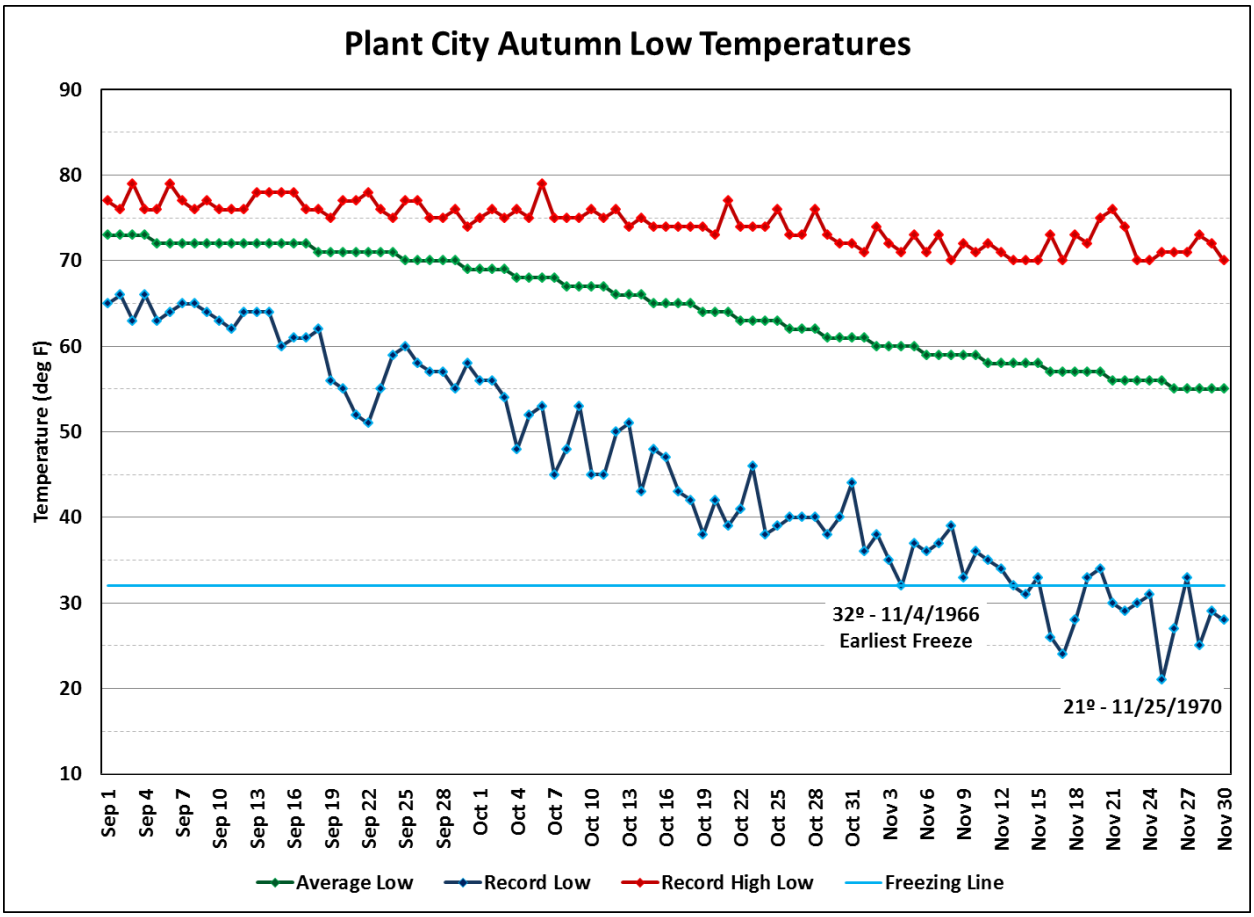


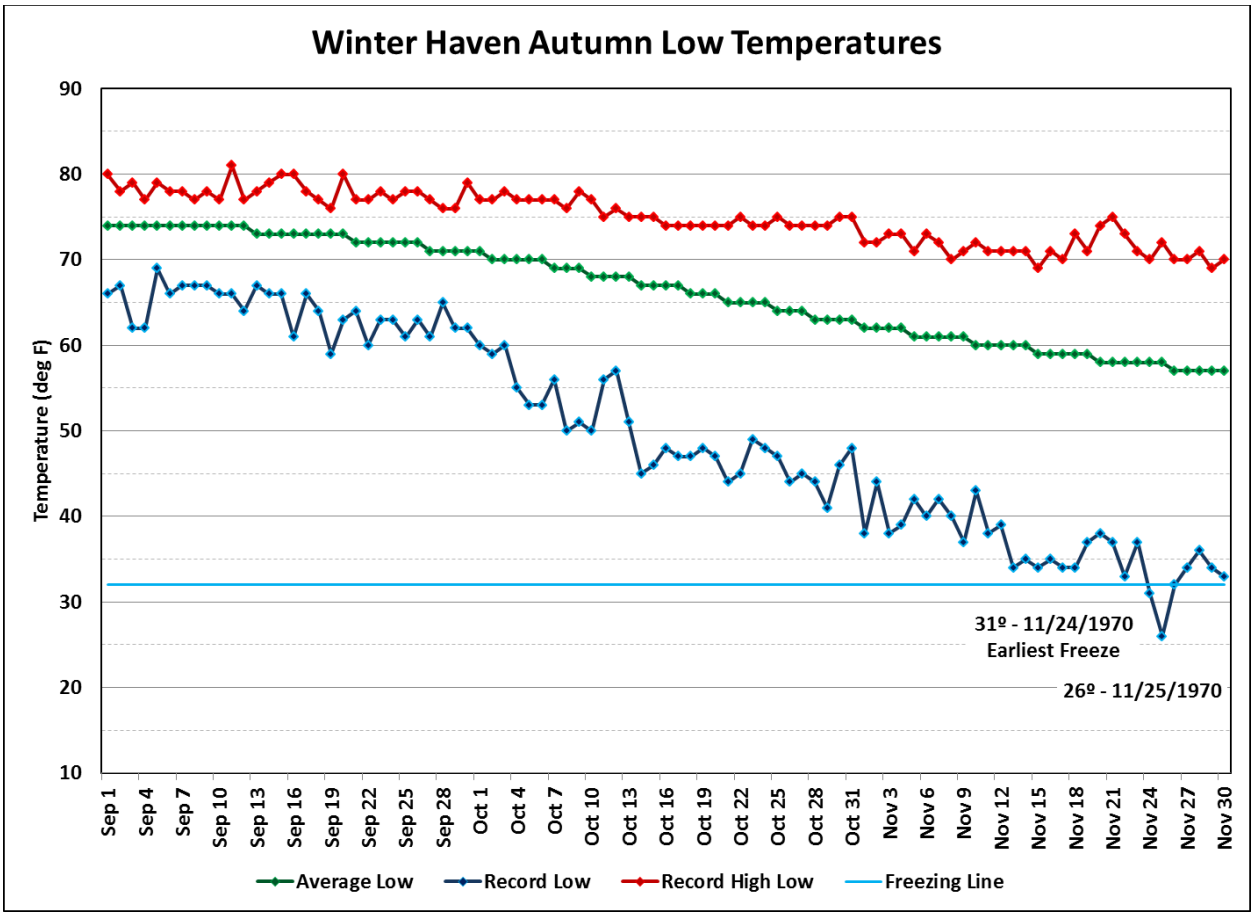


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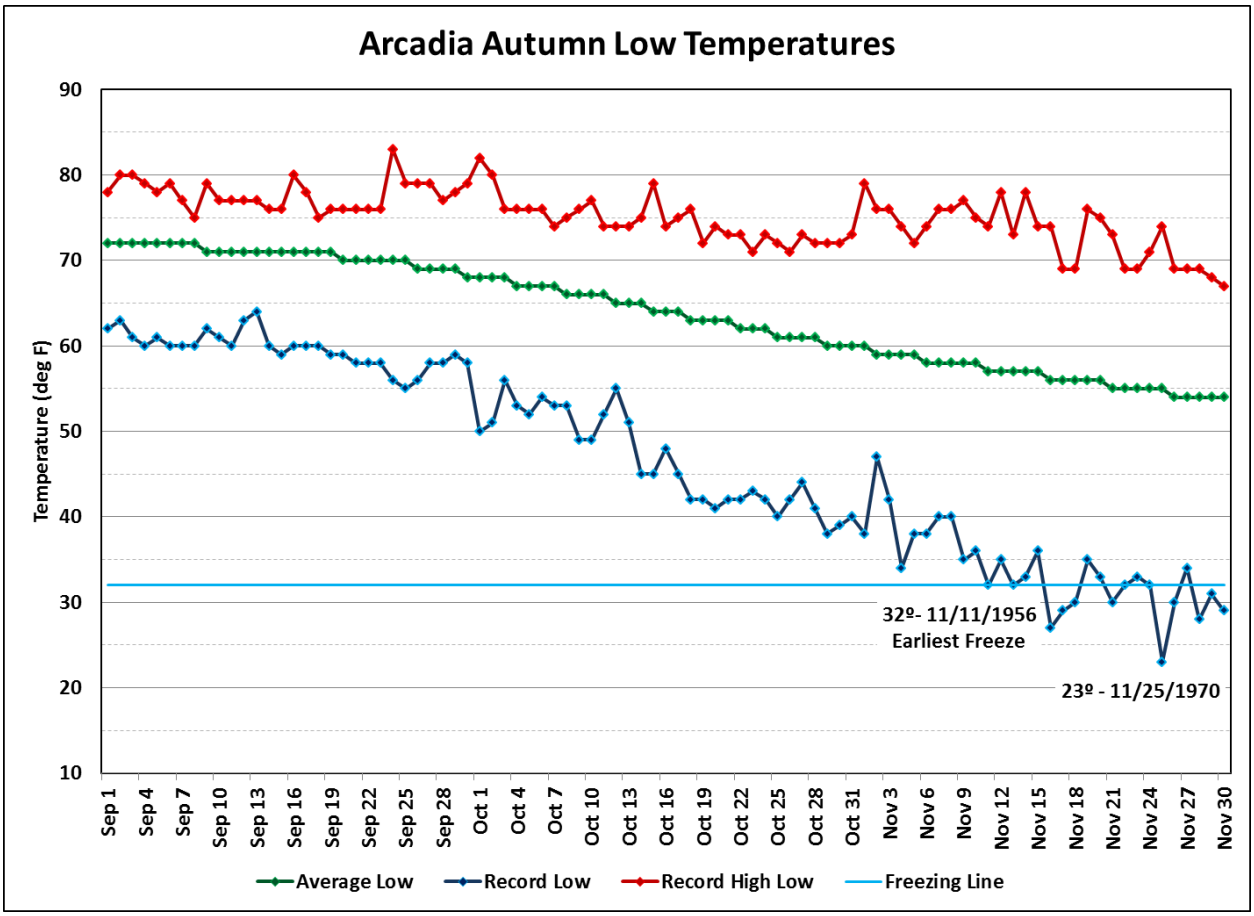


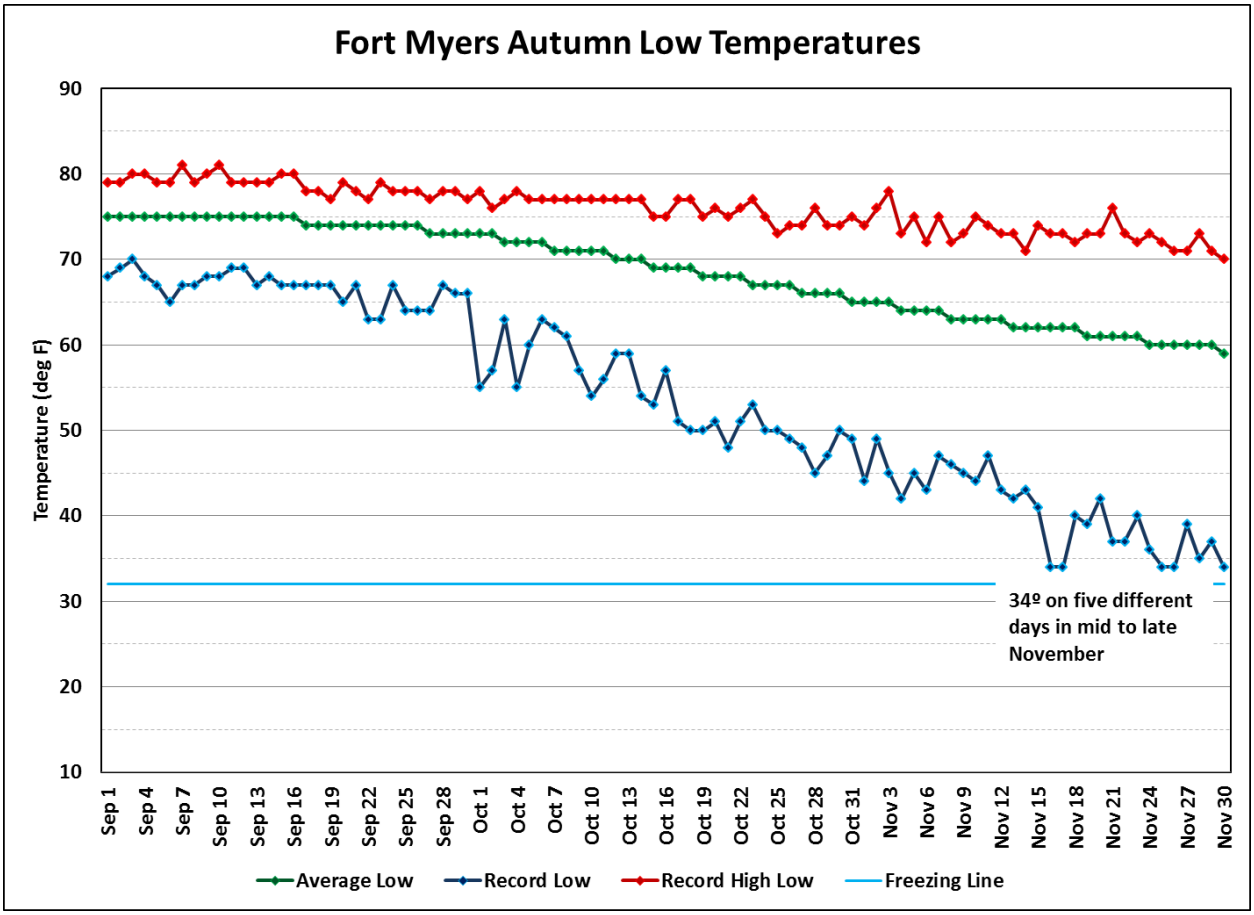


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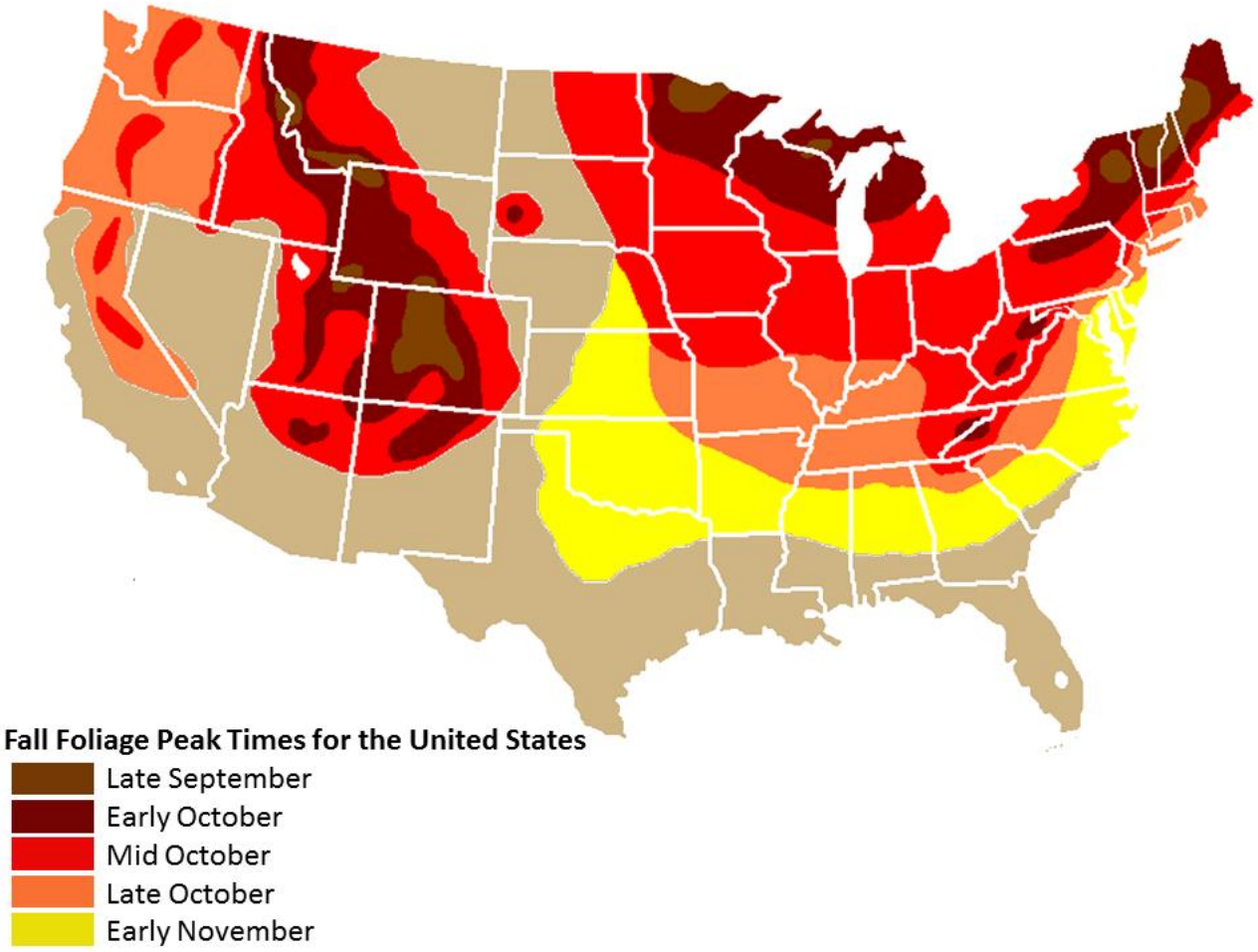
As a side note, for those who miss or would like to see where the foliage has begun to change color across the United States, visit the USDA Forest Service web site listed below.

http://www.fs.fed.us/fallcolors/2014/

And for an idea of the approximate time of peak fall foliage see the image below:




For more local climate information, visit our web site at

http://weather.gov/tampabay

and go to the Climate subsection on the left side of the page and choose a link.

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